

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

# INTRODUCTION

## FINDINGS OF FACT

<sup>1</sup> This favors all households with SSI recipients.

standard for a one-person household was \$458.80 a month. This resulted in a RUFA payment of \$18 a month.

3. Effective January 1, 2005, the petitioner's son's Social Security was increased to \$450 a month. The RUFA payment standard (\$458.80) did not change.

4. On January 8, 2005 the Department notified the petitioner that due to the increase in her son's income, her monthly RUFA benefit would decrease to \$8, but that because this was less than \$10 a month, no RUFA benefit would actually be paid to her.

5. The petitioner argues (not unreasonably) that RUFA payments should be rounded up to \$10 a month whenever the actual payment computation falls below \$10.

#### ORDER

The Department's decision is affirmed.

#### REASONS

W.A.M. § 2241 provides:

The amount of assistance payment shall be the amount of the budgetary deficit rounded down to the nearest lower whole dollar amount. Except for families receiving parent share payments (2333.2), no payment shall be made to a family in any month in which the amount of assistance is determined to be less than \$10.00 for that month, prior to any recoupment applied to the grant. An assistance group not receiving payment solely because the payment would be less than \$10 shall be considered

eligible for Reach Up for all other purposes (i.e., shall be eligible for Medicaid and services provided through the services component of the Reach Up program). This will also apply in cases where an assistance group's payment of 99 cents or less has been rounded down to zero.

In this case, there is no dispute that the Department correctly applied the above provisions to the petitioner's situation. Therefore, although the Board might not agree with the result as a matter of policy, it is bound by law to affirm the Department's decision. 3 V.S.A. § 3091(d), Fair Hearing Rule No. 17.

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